

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1141

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAUGE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR HU

SUBJ: MARCH HSWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. VARNAI FERENC, INFLUENTIAL, WELL-INFORMED AND HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE POLITICAL EDITOR OF HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON THE RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING DURING A LUNCH ON APRIL 8 WITH THE PAO WHICH WERE MORE FRANK AND WENT FURTHER IN SOME RESPECTS THAN COMMENTS HEARD SO FAR FROM OTHER AUTHORITATIVE HUNGARIAN SOURCES. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS, WITH DETAILED MEMCON TO FOLLOW.

2. REFERRING TO NYERS BY NAME, VARNAI SAID HE WAS DEMTED BECAUSE QUOTE HE BECAME TOO RIGID IN CONSIDERING CHANGE, ANY CHANGE, IN THE SYSTEM WHICH HE FELT HE ALONE CREATED, WHEN IN FACT MANY OTHERS PLAYED AN EQUALY IMPORTANT ROLE UNQUOTE. WHEN ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES NYERS RESISTED, VARNAI INSISTED NO

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MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES PLANNED, BUT CONTINUOUS

ADJUSTEMENTS TO SUCH PROBLEMS AS 1971 OVERINVESTMENT AND 1972 SALARY INCREASES TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS WILL ALWAYS BE NECESSARY IN A NEW AND STILL DEVELOPING SYSTEM, AND NYERS NOT ONLY RESISTED CONSIDERING NEW CHANGES BUT DID NOT WHOLEHEARTEDLY COOPERATE IN IMPLEMENTING THE EARLIER ONES.

3. VARNAI SAID THAT KADAR'S PERSONALITY IS BIGGEST ASSURANCE NO MAJOR POLICY CHANGES PLANNED, FIRST BECAUSE HE QUOTE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY A PARTY CONGRESS, A CONCEPT TO WHICH HE ADHERES WITH TOTAL CONVICTION, AND SECOND BECAUSE THERE IS NO PRESSINGLY URGENT PROBLEM AND HE IS A MAN WHO WEIGHS EVERYTHING SEVEN TIMES BEFORE DECIDING UNQUOTE. VARNAI ALSO SAID QUOTE I CAN TELL YOU WITH 100 PERCENT ASSURANCE THAT KADAR DOES NOT INTEND TO RETIRE AT THE NEXT PARTY CONGRESS. HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND THERE IS NO ONEIN HUNGARY WHO CAN APPROACH THE RESPECT AND TRUST THE PEOPLE HAVE IN HIM UNQUOTE.

4. REFERRING TO ACZEL BY NAME ALSO, VARNAI SAID HE WAS DEMOTED AS WELL, BUT TO A MUCH LESSER DEGREE AND NOT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS. HE SAID QUOTE ACZEL HAD BECOME OVERLY-INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURAL POLICY BECAUSE OF HIS AUTHORITY IN THE FIELD, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD BE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH IMPLEMENTATION LIES UNQUOTE. VARNAI ALSO SAID THAT ACZEL IS QUOTE A BIT TOO MERCURIAL, MAKING TOO MANY DECISIONS AND CHANGING HIS MIND ON THEM FROM ONE WEEK TO THE NEXT UNQUOTE. EMPHASIZING THAT THIS CHANGE WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON EXTERNAL CULTURAL CONTACTS, VARNAI SAID ACZEL WILL WORK ON THE INTENSIFICATION OF INTRNAL CULTURAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL MEASURES, WHILE ANSWERING IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO MIKLOS Ovari NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURALPOLICY AND TO IMRE GYORI RESPONSIBLE FOR AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA.

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